

Fact Sheet - Waterfowl Harvests, August 2005

- Liberal duck hunting seasons (60 days, 5 bird bag limit) and resident goose seasons have resulted in high waterfowl harvests in Virginia during the past several years. Harvest has averaged 150,000 ducks and 60,000 geese from 2000 through 2004, compared to 115,000 ducks and 25,000 geese during the 1990's. The long season length and liberal bags offer the opportunity for more days afield and a greater cumulative harvest over the course of the season.
- Federal Duck Stamp sales in Virginia have been stable since 1990 (average of 23,769), indicating that waterfowl hunter numbers have been stable during this time period. This is also supported by the data obtained from the Harvest Information Program (HIP). Since 2000, the number of HIP registered duck hunters has been fairly stable with 12,400 registered duck hunters and 11,000 registered goose hunters.
- Last season (2004-2005), mild winter temperatures during the majority of the season allowed birds to disperse over a large variety of habitats and delayed migration of some species. However, freezing temperatures were experienced throughout the Northeast US from mid-to-late January that resulted in concentrating large numbers of waterfowl in the remaining open water areas where these birds were vulnerable to harvest.
- The duck harvest in Virginia in 2004-05 (136,400), dropped 12% from 2003-04 (152,500) and was 10% below the 5-year average (149,480 ducks). However, this is still higher than the average harvest taken during the 1990's (114,770 ducks).
- The mallard harvest in Virginia in 2004-05 (41,000), dropped 5% from 2003-04 (43,000) and was 26% below the 5-year average (51,740) but still above the average annual harvest (38,000) during the 1990's.
- The Canada goose harvest in Virginia in 2004-05 (55,000), dropped 14% from 2003-04 (62,600) but was 3% above the 5-year average (53,620) and still above the average annual harvest (38,000) during the 1990's.